

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application. Deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining.

Listing Of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a
2 gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:
3 a textured outer surface; and
4 a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface;
5 wherein said elevated sections are intercalated, ~~spaced apart polygons~~ shapes
6 sufficiently spaced apart to permit the textured nature of said outer surface to function to
7 inhibit build-up of dirt and grim in the sunken gaps between said spaced apart shapes.

- 1 2. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised
2 at least about 0.1 mm above said outer surface.

- 1 3. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised
2 at most about 3.0 mm above said outer surface.

- 1 4. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from
2 an anti slip material.

- 1 5. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from
2 a resilient material.

- 1 6. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is fabricated of
2 a thermoplastic elastomer.

- 1 7. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A
2 hardness of at least about 50 durometer.

- 1 8. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A
2 hardness of at most about 70 durometer.

1 9. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are
2 sufficiently spaced apart such that small particles cannot become lodged between said
3 elevated sections and any particle large enough to become lodged between said elevated
4 sections can be readily dislodged.

1 10. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections have a
2 smooth outer surface.